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Welfare and Future Destiny of Filipinos Are Concerned in Issue of Sovereignty

"There is one avenue and only one through which the natural wealth of the Philippines can be realized under conditions which will insure the prosperity, happiness and well-being of the Filipino race, and that is through assurance of permanent American sovereignty and protection, and a willing and whole-hearted cooperation of Filipinos in a constructive, forward-looking program."

Judge D. R. Williams, for many years a resident of the Philippines, makes the above statement in his book, "The United States and the Philippines," soon to issue from the press of Doubleday, Page & Co.

"What of the future?" Mr. Williams asks. "Are the Philippine Islands destined to play a still greater rôle in our economic life through the years to come, or is the game over except the shouting? The question is interesting but hazardous, inasmuch as a mere suggestion that the United States should remain in the Islands because it would be to its advantage to do so, brands one immediately (by propagandists) as opposing independence 'from purely selfish motives.'

"It might be said in defense (without mitigating the attack) that the Philippine problem is but part of a much larger Far Eastern problem, and that the United States must take into account not only the interests of its people as a whole, but also the consequences of its action upon international relations. It can be said also, with truth, that whatever good might result to the United States from retaining the Islands would accrue in even greater measure to the Philippine

people. Our country can be relied upon to serve Filipino interests as faithfully in the future as it has in the past, and to share liberally with them any advantages which might follow a permanent relationship.

"Moreover, there is ever a possibility that the politicians who now agitate for 'complete independence' without actually desiring it, may change their song, or that the intelligent, non-political element, which fully recognizes and admits the desirability of association with the United States, may gain courage to say so openly and impress their views upon the emotional, unthinking masses of the population.

Can Be No Half Measures

"Something that Filipinos seldom if ever face, and few Americans realize, is that there can be no half-way arrangement. Either United States sovereignty must continue in the Archipelago, with reserved powers sufficient to insure an orderly and progressive

JAPANESE INFLUENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

(From the *Philippines Herald*, leading Filipino daily published in English)

A condition . . . to which the Filipinos should not close their eyes is the proportion of the Japanese element in Philippine commerce and industry. There are certain productive and merchandising activities wherein the native element should predominate. In the retail trade, the Japanese are becoming an important factor; and Japanese exporting and importing firms are fast becoming strong competitors of old, well-established corporations.

government, or the withdrawal must be complete and absolute. For the United States to assume responsibility without authority, or for Filipinos to expect it of us, is sublimated folly. Situated as

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Philippines Rich in Mineral Resources; Gold Deposits Yet to Be Explored

Gold, copper, coal, iron, manganese, zinc, chromite and gypsum are among the principal mineral resources of the Philippine Territory.

Gold mining, especially in the Benguet region, has been developed on a commercial scale, the Benguet Consolidated mine being a profitable and growing enterprise of this nature. It is a cyanide mill, two others being operated in the Aroroy district of Masbate. One dredge is in operation in

the Paracale district and another in the Llanga river, Surigao province. Progress is also being made on new prospects in Aroroy, says a recent report of the Philippine Bureau of Science. Abundant gold deposits exist in several regions yet to be thoroughly explored. The year 1923 shows increased gold exports over 1922. Gold bullion exports totalled \$1,653,838 as against \$1,433,856 in 1922 while 1923

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Welfare and Future Destiny of Filipinos

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are the Philippines, 'authority' and 'sovereignty' cannot be divorced, and once the United States deliberately destroys the union it will be estopped alike from turning back or from asserting rights not shared in equal measure by other nations.

"The issue involves the welfare and future destiny of eleven millions of people and their descendants, and merits a deliberate judgment upon the best evidence obtainable. Particularly is this true considering that the United States is a voluntary trustee of the rights and interests of the Islanders as a whole, and cannot in decency cast them off, either because of their own clamor or from selfish motives, until the trust is discharged."

Reduced Death Rate In Philippines Since American Occupation

A reduction of eight per thousand in the death rate for 1923 as compared with 1922, and of 14 per thousand as compared with 1921 is disclosed in a report recently issued by the Philippine Health Service. This makes 1923 the banner year in public sanitation since American occupation of the Archipelago. Governor General Wood has devoted a great deal of attention to sanitary matters during his administration, which began in October, 1921.

The Philippine death rate last year was 17.5 per 1,000 population, comparing favorably with that of other civilized countries, and this in spite of the high infant mortality in the Islands which, however, has been considerably reduced in the past two years.

Ilocos Sur is the province with the lowest death rate in the Islands, 15.6 per 1,000. Several provinces have shown reductions of 5 to 12 per 1,000 population. This result is largely due to increased efficiency of the health organization, improved sanitation of populous centers and increased interest in health education among the masses, health officials declare.

A decrease in the Philippine birth rate is indicated by preliminary statistics this year. This is accounted for principally by the decrease of marriages recorded in 1923.

OWNERSHIP OF UTILITIES

Seventy per cent of public utility enterprises in the Philippine Territory operating under government franchise are owned by Filipinos, according to data compiled by the Manila Public Utilities Commission. There are at present 85 such enterprises, three being railroads, five telephone and telegraph systems, 24 electric light and power plants and 53 ice factories.

Philippines Rich in Mineral Products

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ore exports were valued at \$27,766 compared with \$16,472 the year before.

Scattered deposits of coal are found in various portions of the Archipelago, with actual operations in progress on Batan Island, Cebu, and on the Sibugay Bay Peninsula, Mindanao. The government, through the National Coal Company, operates the coal mines, the Sibugay Bay property presenting comparatively large deposits of bituminous and semi-anthracite coal. The present coal production, the report states, is less than ten per cent of the possible production under extensive development.

Iron ore is being produced in small quantities in the Angat region, Bulacan province, a short distance north of Manila. Important deposits are also found on Calambayan Island, Camarines Norte province, and in the vicinity of Dahikan Bay, Surigao province, the latter being of lateritic iron, resembling that of Nipe Bay, Cuba. Reserves at Dahikan Bay are estimated at 500,000,000 tons.

While extensive copper deposits exist in the Islands, there has been no production of this mineral during American occupation. Copper is found in the Mankayan region, Mountain province, and on the islands of Marinduque and Masbate. The Mankayan deposit is an important one and development work on it has been going on steadily. Sufficient hydro-electric power for mining purposes could be developed in the immediate vicinity of the latter district, the bureau of science report says. The principal drawbacks to commercial production of copper are lack of cheap power and of adequate transportation facilities.

Manganese deposits are found in

Filipino Warns His Countrymen in Open Letter to Senate

In an open letter to the Philippine Senate, Isidor Canlas, a Filipino resident of California sounds a warning to his countrymen against the clamor for premature independence. Japan and China are watching the Island "like hawks," he declares. He also points out that were it not for the backing of the United States, the Philippine government would have gone to pieces long ago. Mr. Canlas writes:

"If the United States gives you your independence, what are you going to do with it? Are you strong enough to run your own government without help and without protection?

"You must remember that our neighbors watch us like hawks. The neighbors I refer to are the Japanese and the Chinese. There are millions of these people waiting to land on our shores to possess what little we have.

"I frankly say had it not been for the United States, our country would have gone to pieces long ago.

"We must realize and think over what the United States is doing for us, gentlemen, for we have been free since the year 1899. Our country and our government have made marvellous progress which we in reality do not understand.

"Gentlemen, I am a native of the Philippine Islands; this is why I am taking an interest just as much as you. I am positive that we are better now without our independence. Don't worry about independence; we shall have it when we are ready for it.

"Gentlemen, we must make up our minds today, now, not tomorrow. I know what I am talking about. I have seen a little of this world, and I have given this question a great deal of thought.

"I am now foreman of the biggest building material warehouse in Southern California and am living with my family in my own home here in Long Beach."

Mr. Canlas' address is 1330 Rose Avenue, Long Beach, Calif.

Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Masbate and Tawitawi. There are lead and zinc deposits in Marinduque, Masbate and Cebu, and chronite deposits in Antique, Panay and Zambales provinces. Gypsum deposits in Batangas province are being worked to supply the necessities of the Cebu Portland Company.

